

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2018-__-E**

In Re:)	
)	
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC's and Duke)	DUKE ENERGY CAROLINAS, LLC'S
Energy Progress, LLC's Petition for Expedited)	AND DUKE ENERGY PROGRESS,
Approval of Waiver of Late Payment Penalties)	LLC's PETITION FOR EXPEDITED
and Requirement for Written Notification to)	APPROVAL OF TEMPORARY
Suspend Billing for Certain Customers)	WAIVER

Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC and Duke Energy Progress, LLC (the “Companies”), pursuant to Rules 103-301(3), 103-800(B) and 103-825 of the Rules and Regulations of the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“Commission”), hereby petition the Commission to approve, on a temporary basis, (1) waiver of the application of late payment penalties provided for in various Commission-approved rate schedules for affected customers located in South Carolina impacted by Hurricane Florence for up to two business cycles, (2) waiver of limitation on estimated bills for impacted customers; and (3) waiver of the requirement for a written request to suspend billing for those customers that are unable to take service due to Hurricane Florence. The Companies request expedited action on this request by the Commission in order to confirm the Companies’ actions as soon as practicable.¹ In support hereof, the Companies respectfully show the following:

1. The Companies are engaged in the generation, transmission, distribution and sale of electricity to the public in North Carolina and South Carolina. The general office of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC is located at 550 South Tryon Street, Charlotte, North Carolina and the mailing address is Post Office Box 1321 (DEC 45A), Charlotte, North Carolina. The general

¹ The Companies also provide information herein regarding discretionary measures being taken for the benefit of affected customers, but that require no Commission approval.

office of Duke Energy Progress, LLC is located at 410 S. Wilmington Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, and the mailing address is Post Office Box 1551, Raleigh, North Carolina 27602-1551. The Companies are a public utility under the laws of North Carolina and are subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission with respect to operations in South Carolina.

2. The attorney for the Companies, to whom all notices and other communications with respect to this Petition should be sent, is:

Heather Shirley Smith
Deputy General Counsel
Duke Energy Corporation
40 W. Broad Street, Suite 690
Greenville, South Carolina 29601
Tel: 864.370.5045
heather.smith@duke-energy.com

3. Recently, Hurricane Florence (the “Hurricane”) crossed the State of South Carolina, dumping substantial amounts of rain on the coast and large portions of the entire State. This event resulted in significant and, in some cases, unprecedented flooding and severely disrupted normal life for residents in the Companies’ service territory in the affected portions of South Carolina. In many cases, that disruption forced customers to evacuate homes and businesses until flooding subsided. As flooding subsides, many customers are faced with significant challenges to clean-up and/or rebuild flood-damaged properties.

4. The Companies recognize that customers in the areas listed above may, in many cases, be facing challenges related to flood damage and recovery that are a higher priority than the payment of utility bills. The Companies plan to support customer recovery efforts by temporarily waiving the monthly late payment penalty allowed in SC Reg. 103-339 (3) for affected customers and reflected in the Companies’ various Commission-approved rate schedules for these customers, and ask for a waiver of such requirements where applicable.

5. The damage and flooding stemming from Hurricane Florence has made it difficult to accomplish meter reading in certain instances. In such cases, the Companies respectfully seek that the Commission order a waiver of SC Reg. 103.339(6) to allow for extended estimation of bills where appropriate for impacted customers.

6. Duke Energy Progress, LLC's service regulations at section 1.f provide that "If Customer is temporarily unable to take the electricity contracted for due to physical destruction of or damage to his premises, Company will, upon written request of Customer, and for a period reasonably required to replace or repair such premises, suspend billing under the Agreement effective with the beginning of the next ensuing billing period." (Emphasis added). Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC's service regulations contain a similar requirement in Leaf H, para XIII.² The Companies wish to support those customers that are unable to take service due to Hurricane Florence by temporarily waiving the requirement for written notification to suspend billing, and ask that the Commission approve waiver of such requirements.

7. The Companies have conferred with the Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS") on the requests made above and is authorized to represent that the ORS does not object to this request.

8. The Companies respectfully submit that the relief requested herein is consistent with the public interest and is based upon good cause shown and requests expedited approval thereof.

² In the event the Customer's premises is destroyed by fire, natural disaster; or other casualty, or the operation of its plant is shut down because of strike, fire, natural disaster or, other cause beyond the Customer's control, making a complete cessation of service, then upon written notice by the Customer to the Company within thirty (30) days thereafter, advising that the Customer intends to resume service as soon as possible, any minimum charge, or guarantee for which the Customer may be liable will be waived during the period of such cessation, and the contract shall be extended for a corresponding period. Otherwise, the agreement for service shall immediately terminate. When service has ceased under the described conditions, the Company shall have the right to (1) waive the collection of a deposit to reestablish service, (2) waive temporary service charges for temporary facilities or for reestablishment of service when such charges do not exceed a reasonable amount, (3) waive the collection of area lighting charges due to early termination of contract, and (4) waive the collection of a reconnection fee.

9. In addition to the request outlined above, the Companies also note that it is their intent to suspend disconnect for non-payment for affected customers, including Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC's Prepaid Advantage customers, as well as waiving the Service/Connection Charge and return payment fee for affected customers if necessary.

CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, the Companies respectfully request that the Commission waive the requirement that customers identified by the Companies as unable to take electric service due to Hurricane Florence notify the Companies in writing to suspend their billing until service is restored. The Companies further request that the Commission authorize the Companies to waive late payment penalties for impacted customer located in the Hurricane Florence as necessary, effective from the date of the storm through November 30, 2018, and that the Commission waive the limitation on estimated billing for impacted customers where necessary.

Respectfully submitted this 19th day of September 2018.



Heather Shirley Smith
Deputy General Counsel
Duke Energy Corporation
40 W. Broad Street, Suite 690
Greenville, South Carolina 29601
Tel: 864.370.5045
heather.smith@duke-energy.com

ATTORNEY FOR DUKE ENERGY CAROLINAS, LLC
AND DUKE ENERGY PROGRESS, LLC